

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on March 17, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

~~the~~ ~~has~~  
In this Amendment, Applicants ~~X~~ have editorially amended the specification and claims 1 and 2. Claims 1 and 2 are the independent claims, and claims 1-7 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 1 and 2 as amended each recite "a coordinator, distinct from any device controlled by the remote controller, including: a coordinator receiving unit that receives therein the device list information request command transmitted from the remote controller via the radio channel; and a coordinator transmitting unit that transmits the device list information to the remote controller in response to the device list information request command".

The amendment to claims 1 and 2 is supported, for example, by page 23, lines 15-26 of the specification:

As shown in Fig. 6, the remocon 10 requires the coordinator 30 to send device list information held in the coordinator 30 by use of a device list information request command (see Fig. 4(a)). The coordinator 30 having received its request reads device list information stored in an EEPROM 31 and transmits the list information to the remocon 10. In the remocon 10 having received the list information, the contents of the list information is displayed on the liquid crystal display 12. An operation sequence at this time is similar to one for the coordinator 30 with which the controlled device 20 shown in Fig. 5 is substituted.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by *Hayes et al.* (US 2002/0140571 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

*Hayes et al.* (US 2002/0140571 A1) discloses a remote control system incorporating an RF transceiver, and in which information may be retrieved from the Internet. However, *Hayes et al.* fails to teach or suggest “a coordinator, distinct from any device controlled by the remote controller, including: a coordinator receiving unit that receives therein the device list information *request command* transmitted from the remote controller *via the radio channel*; and a coordinator transmitting unit that transmits the device list information to the remote controller *in response to the device list information request command*”.

*Hayes et al.* merely teaches, for example in ¶[0122], that “The new code sub-application **519** allows the user to try new codes received during a prior download over the Internet or through customer service via the telephone”. Thus, *Hayes et al.* fails to show either transmitting a “request command”, or that the request command is “transmitted from the remote controller *via the radio channel*”, or transmitting “the device list information to the remote controller *in response to the device list information request command*” (*emphasis added*).

In addition, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by *Vidal* (US 6,914,551 B2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

*Vidal* (US 6,914,551 B2) discloses a universal remote control including a processing unit configured to display information on a display screen and to

accept selection data from a user input mechanism. In *Vidal*, communication module **408** in remote control **102** transmits a request to communication module **418** in appliance **402**, which returns a menu specification in a markup language. See, for example, FIG. 6 and column 6, lines 28-41 of *Vidal*.

However, in the above example, the menu specification is retrieved from the appliance **402** that is also controlled by the remote control **102**, and not from a "coordinator" that is separate from the controlled appliance. Hence, *Vidal* also fails to teach or suggest "a coordinator, distinct from any device controlled by the remote controller, including: a coordinator receiving unit that receives therein the device list information request command transmitted from the remote controller via the radio channel; and a coordinator transmitting unit that transmits the device list information to the remote controller in response to the device list information request command".

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1 and 2 are allowable, and hence the dependent claims are also allowable.

Claims 3 and 4 were further rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over the combination of *Vidal* with *Hayes et al.* This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claims 1 and 2 respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that the independent claims are allowable. In addition, if *Vidal* were to be combined with *Hayes et al.*, the claimed invention

would not result, as in *Hayes et al.* the codes are previously downloaded and in *Vidal* the menu specifications are retrieved from the appliance, hence in neither case is display list information retrieved from a separate coordinator in response to a request command sent over a radio channel.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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Alun L. Palmer – Reg. No. 47,838  
RABIN & BERDO, PC – Cust. No. 23995  
Facsimile: 202-408-0924; 202-408-5297  
Telephone: 202-371-8976

ALP/

AMENDMENT

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